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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR  
THE DISTRICT OF UTAH**

GENA GOLDEN, an individual and SUSAN GOLDEN, an individual, )  
Plaintiffs, )  
vs. ) Civil No. 2:15-CV-00176-TC  
MENTOR CAPITAL, INC., a Delaware ) Honorable Tena Campbell  
corporation, LABERTEW & ASSOCIATES, a )  
Utah limited liability company, and Michael L. )  
Labertew, an individual ) (Jury Trial Demanded)  
Defendants. )

COME NOW plaintiffs Gena Golden and Susan Golden (“Golden”) to allege and complain against defendants Mentor Capital, Inc., Labertew & Associates and Michael L. Labertew (“defendants”) as follows:

## PARTIES

1. Gena Golden and Susan Golden are residents of Dade County, Florida.

2. Mentor Capital, Inc. (“Mentor”) is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Ramona, California.

3. Labertew & Associates is a Utah limited liability company with its offices at 4764 South 900 East, Suite 3, Salt Lake City, Utah.

4. Michael L. Labertew, Esq. is, upon information and belief, a resident of Summit County, Utah. Labertew acted in his individual capacity and in his capacity as a representative of Labertew & Associates with respect to the conduct alleged herein. Labertew & Associates and Labertew individually will be known collectively as “Labertew.”

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Mentor Capital, Inc. pursuant to U.C.A. § 78B-3-201, et seq., the Utah long-arm statute. In addition, Mentor has appeared before this Court without limitation and has therefore waived any jurisdictional challenge.

6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

#### **BACKGROUND FACTS**

7. Mentor is in the business of purchasing companies that service the legal and medical cannabis industry. Mentor was formerly known as Main Street Capital which filed for bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California on August 21, 1998. In June 2003, the Securities & Exchange Commission (“SEC”) entered a Cease and Desist Order

against Mentor for being an unregistered investment company in violation of the Securities Act of 1940 and the Securities Act of 1934.

8. During all relevant times, Gena and Susan Golden were interested in making investments into their investment portfolios. In early 2014, their husband and father respectively, Richard Golden (“Richard”), was attempting to locate a suitable investment for them.

9. In March 2014, Richard learned of an opportunity to invest with Mentor. Specifically, he was told about the possibility of purchasing freely trading Mentor common stock. At that time he was not told that anyone pursuing this opportunity would actually be purchasing warrants which would then be converted into common stock. Instead, he was affirmatively told by Chester Billingsley, the CEO of Mentor, in an email dated March 10, 2014 that the opportunity was to purchase common stock.

10. As part of his investigation into Mentor for his wife and daughter, Richard reviewed a “Blanket Opinion Letter” (“BOL”) drafted by Michael L. Labertew, Esq. of Labertew & Associates, a Salt Lake City based law firm, that had been posted on the Mentor website. Labertew represents himself as having skill and experience in matters of federal and state securities laws. In January 2004, the SEC sanctioned Michael Labertew for a judgment entered against him by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas which, among other things, permanently enjoined him from future violations of Section 5 of the Securities Act of 1933.

11. The BOL was also drafted by Billingsley. In fact, Billingsley had numerous communications with Labertew about the BOL prior to its issuance and assisted in editing it for publication on Mentor's website.

12. The purpose of the BOL was to advise prospective investors who were considering buying Mentor stock directly or through the market. Another purpose of the BOL was to advise and explain to the transfer agent for Mentor that it was authorized to issue Mentor warrants or shares of common stock. The BOL authored by Labertew contains numerous false, inaccurate and misleading statements including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. That the transfer agent for Mentor was authorized to issue Mentor warrants or common shares without a restrictive legend;
- b. That such warrants or shares were subject to an exemption from the registration requirements set forth in Section 3(a)(7) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 1145 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code;
- c. That certain warrants and warrant series were approved by the Bankruptcy Court for Main Street Capital pursuant to a Disclosure Statement and Plan of Reorganization approved by the Bankruptcy Court in January 2000 which had been repriced and their exercise periods extended; and
- d. That the Securities & Exchange Commission had issued a "No Action" letter regarding the Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure Statement prepared by Main Street Capital in December 1999.

13. In reality, the approved Plan of Reorganization provided that the warrants had to be issued within 485 days of the plan's confirmation date, January 11, 2000, that is by August 10, 2001 unless the holder of the warrants had received an extension of the expiration date in writing from Main Street or Mentor.

14. In reality, any warrants and shares issued were not exempt from the registration requirements under the Securities Act of 1933 or under 11 U.S.C. § 1145.

15. In reality, the Securities & Exchange Commission did not issue an "No Action" letter in connection with the Plan of Reorganization submitted by Main Street Capital. Such letters ordinarily represent that the SEC staff will not enforce action against a requester. No such letter was issued to Main Street Capital or Mentor.

16. On or about March 20, 2014, Golden purchased \$146,250 worth of Mentor stock. Mentor acknowledged the Golden purchase in correspondence with both Gena and Susan Golden dated March 20, 2014. Mentor did not issue warrants to Golden but indicated that it had already completed the conversion to shares upon receipt of the purchase funds.

17. Mentor had not filed a registration statement with the SEC before issuing this stock. In fact, Mentor did not file a registration statement until November 2014. In selling unregistered securities to Golden, Mentor violated Section 5 of the 1933 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77e.

18. Golden communicated directly with Mentor personnel concerning the purchase of shares including, but not limited to, Chester Billingsley. Mentor understood at the time it issued shares to Golden that Golden was purchasing shares with her own money and that the shares were

not gifts from other persons or companies. Indeed, Mentor sent correspondence to both Gena and Susan Golden on March 20, 2015 confirming their share purchase and thanking each for their investment.

19. Golden eventually received shares of Mentor stock which did not have a restrictive legend on them. The significance of this was that the stock was represented to be “freely tradable.”

20. Golden attempted to deposit this stock at several national brokerage firms all of which refused to accept the shares without a letter from the issuer. Mentor provided an issuer letter but those same brokerage firms rejected it.

21. In early August 2014, Mentor, through Billingsley, informed Golden that she had not purchased shares but had instead purchased warrants. When asked to see the warrants, Mentor provided her a warrant dated March 26, 2014 and a stamp indicating that the warrant had been cancelled on the same date. However the share certificate provided indicated an issue date of March 21, 2014. In other words, the shares were provided before the warrants that Golden supposedly purchased were even created.

22. More importantly, these warrants were not part of the warrant series provided by the Main Street Capital bankruptcy plan of reorganization because, by their date, they did not even exist at the time the plan was approved on January 11, 2000.

23. As such, what Golden purchased were unregistered shares that were not exempt based upon representations made by defendants that were false and misleading, in particular that the shares were “free trading.” They were not.

24. The Mentor shares Golden received for her \$146,250 can not be freely traded and are therefore worthless.

## **COUNT I**

### **(Violation of Securities Act of 1933 Against All Defendants)**

25. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 24 of her Second Amended Complaint.

26. Mentor offered to Golden and Golden purchased from Mentor securities which had not been registered in violation of Section 5 of the 1933 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77e. As such, Mentor's communication to Golden through the BOL violated Section 12 of the 1933 Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77l.

27. The Mentor securities were not exempt from registration by law or rule.

28. Mentor offered these securities by use of the BOL as well as by direct representations through email which were communications over state lines and which contained numerous materially false, inaccurate and misleading statements as described herein.

29. As described herein, Labertew made several false, misleading and inaccurate statements in his BOL knowing that potential investors such as Golden would be relying upon those statements.

30. Golden did in fact rely upon the BOL and the representations made by Mentor in making her decision to purchase Mentor stock.

31. As a result of the conduct alleged herein, Golden has been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000.

32. The conduct of defendants was undertaken in bad faith and was in reckless disregard of and wanton indifference towards the rights of Golden, thereby entitling Golden to an award of punitive or exemplary damages.

## **COUNT II**

### **(Violation of Section 10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5)**

33. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 32 of her Second Amended Complaint.

34. By and through the conduct alleged herein, Mentor and Labertew violated § 10(b) of the 1934 Act and Rule 10b-5 by acting in or by interstate commerce:

- a. Employing a device, scheme or artifice to defraud, namely the BOL, which contained numerous materially false and misleading statements;
- b. Making an untrue statement of material fact and omitting to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, see ¶¶ 13 - 17, supra; and
- c. Engaging in an act, practice and course of business which operated as a fraud or deceit upon Golden, including by posting the BOL on the Mentor website knowing it would be relied upon by Golden and others as well as by telling Golden and others in March 2014 that Mentor was offering for purchase freely trading common stock.

35. Golden reasonably relied on the knowingly fraudulent misstatements and omissions of Mentor and Labertew and was damaged by that reliance in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000.

36. The conduct of Mentor and Labertew was undertaken in bad faith and was in reckless disregard of and wanton indifference towards the rights of Golden, thereby entitling Golden to an award of punitive or exemplary damages.

### **COUNT III**

#### **(Fraud Against All Defendants)**

37. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 36 of her Second Amended Complaint.

38. As alleged herein, defendants made numerous false and misleading statements of fact or omissions of material fact with the specific intent of causing Golden to purchase Mentor's stock. These material misrepresentations and omissions include the following:

- a. That Mentor was authorized to issue Mentor warrants or common shares without a restrictive legend;
- b. That such warrants or shares were subject to an exemption from the registration requirements set forth in Section 3(a)(7) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 1145 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code; and

c. That the Securities & Exchange Commission had issued a "No Action" letter regarding the Plan of Reorganization and Disclosure Statement prepared by Main Street Capital in December 1999.

39. Defendants knew or should have known that the representations and omissions that were made in the BOL were materially false and misleading and that investors such as Golden would reasonably rely on the BOL in making an investment decision.

40. Golden reasonably relied upon the representations and omissions of defendants. As a result of their reasonable reliance, Golden has been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000.

41. The conduct of defendants was undertaken in bad faith and was in reckless disregard of and wanton indifference towards the rights of Golden, thereby entitling Golden to an award of punitive or exemplary damages.

#### **COUNT IV**

##### **(Negligent Misrepresentation Against All Defendants)**

42. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 41 of her Second Amended Complaint.

43. Defendants had a pecuniary interest in the transaction with Golden.

44. Defendants were in a superior position to know what their true and actual intent was regarding their relationship with Golden and the money that Golden was investing to purchase Mentor stock.

45. Defendants foresaw or should have foreseen that Golden would reasonably rely on their representations or omissions.

46. Golden reasonably relied upon defendants' careless and negligent representations and omissions regarding use of Golden's investment money.

47. As a result of their reliance, Golden has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000.

48. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein was undertaken in bad faith and was in reckless disregard of and wanton indifference towards the rights of Golden, thereby entitling Golden to an award of punitive or exemplary damages.

### **COUNT V**

#### **(Conspiracy Against All Defendants)**

49. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 48 of her Second Amended Complaint.

50. The defendants were and are involved in a conspiracy to harm Golden. The object of this conspiracy was and is, among other things, to take money from Golden that she had invested in shares of stock that were not registered and were not subject to any lawful exemption.

51. Mentor and Labertew had a meeting of the minds as to the object of the conspiracy and the acts undertaken in furtherance of it.

52. Defendants engaged in one or more unlawful overt acts as part of a scheme to damage Golden. These acts include, but are not limited to, the solicitation of Golden's investment

and the misrepresentations concerning the tradeability of Mentor's stock, particularly as set forth in the BOL.

53. Golden has been damaged as a proximate result of the conspiracy between Mentor and Labertew in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000.

54. The conduct of defendants was undertaken in bad faith and reckless disregard of and wanton indifference towards the rights of Golden, thereby entitling Golden to an award of punitive or exemplary damages.

#### **COUNT VI**

##### **(Declaratory Judgment)**

55. Golden repeats, realleges and incorporates by reference herein the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 54 of her Second Amended Complaint.

56. A controversy exists between Mentor and Golden concerning whether the shares Mentor issued to Golden are freely tradeable.

57. Mentor relies upon Labertew's BOL to establish that the Golden shares are freely tradeable while Golden contends that the BOL is false, misleading, inaccurate and invalid.

58. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, et seq. Golden respectfully requests that this Court issue the following declaratory judgment:

- a. That the BOL is invalid because it contains materially false and inaccurate statements and fails to state material facts necessary in order to make the

statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and

- b. That the Mentor shares are unregistered securities, not subject to an exemption and are therefore not freely tradeable.

WHEREFORE, Golden respectfully requests the following relief:

1. With respect to Count I, damages, including punitive or exemplary damages, in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000;
2. With respect to Count II, damages, including punitive or exemplary damages, in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000;
3. With respect to Count III, damages, including punitive or exemplary damages, in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000;
4. With respect to Count IV, damages, including punitive or exemplary damages, in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000;
5. With respect to Count V, damages, including punitive or exemplary damages, in an amount to be proven at trial but not less than \$150,000;
6. With respect to Count VI, a declaratory judgment:
  - a. That the BOL is invalid because it contains materially false and inaccurate statements and fails to state material facts necessary in order to make the statements made, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; and

- b. That the Mentor shares are unregistered securities, not subject to an exemption and are therefore not freely tradeable.
- 7. All costs and fees, including reasonable attorney's fees, associated with the bringing of this action;
- 8. All pre- and post-judgment interest as may be allowed by law; and
- 9. Any and all other relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38, Golden respectfully requests a trial by jury for all matters so triable.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

By /s/ Sean N. Egan  
Sean N. Egan  
Attorney for Plaintiffs

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT** was served upon the person(s) named below, by electronically filing a true and correct copy of said document with the Clerk of the Court, using the Utah Trial Court's CM/ECF system, which sent notification of such filing to the following:

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By \_\_\_\_\_ */s/ Sean N. Egan* \_\_\_\_\_